

Quality Report

Indices of agreed earnings and working hours

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For subject-related information on this publication please contact the Federal Statistical Office:

Division V D tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 2407, fax: +49 (0) 611 / 75 40000 or e-mail:
verdienste@destatis.de

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Abstract

General information on the statistics

• Indices of agreed earnings and working hours • Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes (BStatG) as amended • Earnings statistics law as amended • *Survey units*: About 600 collective and enterprise agreements. The agreements cover at least 75% of the persons employed under such agreements in any economic branch to be covered. The relevant agreements and the number of employees to whom those agreements apply are taken from the structure of earnings survey. • *Reference period*: quarters, year • *Periodicity*: quarterly

Purpose and goals of the statistics

• *Contents*: The indices reflect the trend of agreed hourly and monthly earnings of employees and of agreed weekly working hours. • *Purpose of the statistics*: Description of the trend of agreed earnings; leading indicator of the actual trend of earnings; information basis for the parties to collective agreements in collective bargaining; basis for adjustment of stable-value clauses • *Major users*: Federal ministries, economic associations, trade unions, enterprises, politics, scientific community and private users

Methodology

• *Type of data collection*: Secondary survey • *Reporting channel*: The collective agreements are sent by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to the Federal Statistical Office and are evaluated there. In exceptional cases, the agreements are requested from the relevant trade unions.

Accuracy

• The collective agreements cover at least 75% of the persons employed under such agreements in any economic branch to be covered, both for the old and the new Länder.

Timeliness and punctuality

• *Publication of first results*: The results are published quarterly at the end of the subsequent month.

Comparability over time and space

• *Comparability over time and space*: Comparable time series have been available for Germany, the new Länder and the former territory of the Federal Republic since 1995.

Connection with other surveys

• *Official statistics*: The indices of agreed earnings and working hours are part of the dissemination standard of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

[Other information sources](#)

- *Detailed results* at <http://www.destatis.de/publikationen> (free download) or as print version (chargeable)

Quality characteristics of the statistics:
Indices of agreed earnings and working hours

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1 General information on the statistics

- 1.1 Name of the statistics:** indices of agreed earnings and working hours (EVAS no. 62221)
- 1.2 Reference period:** reference quarters
- 1.3 Dates of publication:** The results are published quarterly. 1st quarter (November of previous year to January of reference year): end of April of reference year; 2nd quarter (February to April): end of July of reference year; 3rd quarter (May to July): end of October of reference year; 4th quarter (August to October): end of January of subsequent year.
- 1.4 Periodicity:** quarterly
- 1.5 Regional coverage:** Germany, former territory, new Länder
- 1.6 Survey population:** Industry and service branches (wholesale and retail trade, financial intermediation, hotels and restaurants, transport, storage and communication, real estate, renting and business activities, health and social work as well as other community, social and personal service activities)
- 1.7 Classifications:** The collective agreements are coded according to the national Classification of Economic Activities, edition 2008 (WZ 2008). Allocation is based on two-digit items.
- 1.8 Legal bases:**
- Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes (BStatG) as amended
 - Work commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- 1.9 Confidentiality and data protection:** The information from collective agreements included in the indices of agreed earnings and working hours is used only for the purpose of index calculation. Individual data on agreed earnings are not published.

2 Purpose and goals of the statistics

- 2.1 Contents:**
- What is included in the indices of agreed earnings and working hours is about 600 selected collective agreements of the former territory of the Federal Republic and of the new Länder. The collective agreements cover at least 75% of the persons employed under such agreements in any economic branch to be covered, both for the old and the new Länder. What is covered is data on the agreed earnings of employees and data on weekly working hours as well as data on when the collective agreements were concluded and terminated and on the amount of employment benefits to encourage capital formation. Not included are individual bonuses and premiums, one-off payments, flat rate payments and remuneration in excess of agreed earnings.

The remuneration, wage or salary changes in the various collective agreements are included in the index of agreed earnings according to the share that the employees in a specific economic branch have in the total number of employees in all economic branches covered (weighting pattern). The number of employees by economic branches is obtained from the structure of earnings survey (SES; currently SES 2006), which is conducted at intervals of four years among about 34,000 local units for some 3 million employees. The central, regional and local authorities are not covered by the SES, but they are derived from the annual statistics on public service personnel.

The indices of agreed earnings and working hours are computed as Laspeyres price indices with fixed base year, i.e. the index numbers refer to the employee structures of the base year applicable. For the current base year, the weights of the structure of earnings survey 2006 were taken as a basis.

2.2 Purpose of the statistics: The indices of agreed earnings and working hours

- describe the trend of total agreed earnings and show the differences between various economic branches,
- allow comparisons of agreed earnings and working hours between the former territory of the Federal Republic and the new Länder,
- are a leading indicator of the trend of actual earnings,
- allow calculation of the earnings drift (difference between actual earnings and agreed earnings),
- provide information for collective bargaining by the parties to collective agreements, and
- play an important role as stable-value clauses in long-term contracts (price escalator clause).

2.3 Major users of the statistics: Major users include federal ministries, economic associations, trade unions, enterprises, politics, the scientific community and private users.

3 Methodology

3.1 Type of data calculation: Secondary statistics: The collective agreements are collected by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and transmitted to the Federal Statistical Office and are evaluated there. In exceptional cases, the collective agreements are requested from the relevant trade unions.

3.2 Burden on the respondents: As this is a secondary statistics, no additional burden is placed on the respondents.

4 Accuracy:

The collective agreements used to calculate the indices of agreed earnings and working hours cover at least 75% of the employees in any economic branch to be represented. For the remaining collective agreements that are not included, it is assumed that their development is similar to that of the agreements included. Changing over to a new weighting pattern will have some effect only if the structure of employees in the economic branches covered has changed considerably.

5 Timeliness and punctuality:

Publication of first results: The results are published early: 1st quarter (November of previous year to January of reference year): end of April of reference year; 2nd quarter (February to April): end of July of reference year; 3rd quarter (May to July): end of October of reference year; 4th quarter (August to October): end of January of subsequent year.

6 Comparability over time and space:

Comparability over time and space: Comparable time series for Germany as a whole, the former territory of the Federal Republic, and the new Länder have been available since 1995: The relevant collective agreements and the number of employees who are paid according to the relevant collective agreements are taken from the structure of earnings survey. Therefore, exact allocation in terms of space is possible. The terms are indicated in the collective agreements.

7 Connection with other surveys:

The indices of agreed earnings and working hours are part of the dissemination standard of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

8 Other information sources

Results of the indices of agreed earnings and working hours are available for free download at <http://www.destatis.de/publikationen> or as chargeable print versions.

For questions or comments on the statistics of agreed earnings please contact the

Federal Statistical Office
Division VD – Earnings, Labour Costs
D-65180 Wiesbaden
Contact: Mr. Markus Biermanski
tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 - 2407
fax: +49 (0) 611 / 75 - 40 00
e-mail: verdienste@destatis.de